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AFTER THE DROUGHT IS BROKEN

★ SEP 3 1936 ★

U. S. Department of Agriculture

A radio talk by Dr. C.W. Warburton, director of extension work, delivered Thursday, August 21, at 1:10 p.m., in the National Farm and Home Hour, through 38 radio stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company.

With the coming of rains and cooler weather, and with rapid progress made in setting up the State and Federal machinery to administer drought relief measures, the newspaper headlines on drought stories are scaling down in size and the stories move to the inside pages.

That is natural and inevitable. We have passed the trying times of searing heat. The spectacular element of this visitation of Providence fades as time wears on.

The city consumer is reassured as to his food supply, which will be ample. But though the headlines fade, the situation brought by the drought remains the foremost item in the daily lives of hundreds of thousands of farm families. That situation will be the first consideration faced by those families as they make their plans for the coming winter and spring.

We are starting the long, hard, pull of rehabilitation, of seeing to it that the structure of agriculture in the afflicted sections is not impaired as the result of a rainless growing season. The American Red Cross has undertaken to see to it that there shall be no human suffering following in the wake of destitution wrought by drought. But each individual farmer faces the hard job of seeing to it that his business weathers the coming winter and spring without depletion of foundation livestock, or serious after-effects.

As you have heard in these daily radio broadcasts and read in your newspapers, Federal and State governments are bending every effort to help you as individuals meet this emergency. Bankers are working on the matter of emergency financing; the railroads have granted reduced rates for necessary movement of livestock and feed. Governors of States are setting up drought committees to supervise arrangements within the States, and President Hoover has appointed a national committee headed by the Secretary of Agriculture, to work with the State committees.

Now all this organization takes some time, and the searching out of facts to guide the organizations will take some more time. All concerned are working hard and working fast --but not carelessly. Today I want to assure all of you that the relief machinery will soon be functioning, and that you can make contact with it through your county agent, or if your county has no agricultural agent, through a man in your county designated by the State director of Extension.

I want to assure you also that there is no occasion for any panic buying of feeds or selling of livestock, and I want to urge you not to help make feeds dear by trying to hoard, nor to sell livestock at sacrifice prices because of fear of feed shortage later. I want to tell you how to make contact with the rehabilitation forces so that you will clearly under-



stand that there is no need for hasty action which you may later regret. All of the people interested in agriculture were cheered last week to have word from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics that up to last Saturday there was little evidence at the leading livestock markets of forced marketing because of the drought. There should be no more evidence of such marketing in later weeks.

Your county agent, or, if your county has no agricultural agent, some other person designated by your state director of extension work, has been supplied with copies of the regulations governing the issuance of certificates approving emergency rates on feed into drought areas, or livestock out of such areas to points where feed is available. They also have been supplied with the approval certificates. The first step toward obtaining the reduced railroad rates is to file one of these certificates with the local railroad agent previous to the movement of the commodity from the point of origin. The final decision on application of the rate to any shipment lies with the railroad.

Before efficient use can be made of the reduced rail rates, it is obvious that we must do these things:

1. Locate the closest source of feed supplies, if we are to ship in feed for our livestock.
2. Locate the closest points where pasturage and other feeds are available if we are to ship out livestock to feed.

Now doing either thing means getting some facts and doing some figuring. The Federal Bureau of Agricultural Economics has gathered some facts on locations and amounts of feed supplies. These facts are being forwarded to your county agents or other designated representatives. They will be cleared through your State Agricultural College so that there will not be wasteful competitive bidding for feed supplies that will hike prices; so that there will not be a rush of livestock to areas where feed is available that will reduce prices of livestock; so that unnecessarily long hauls of either feed or livestock will be avoided. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics also will make available its regular and some special reports on prices of feedstuffs at the markets so that you need not be gouged on your purchases of feeds. These reports will be at the office of your county for your inspection.

Let me point out one further thing. That is that the reduced railroad rates apply only on carlots. That means local organization into groups when you are buying concentrates, or buying through your regular dealers, for only the larger livestock operators will be buying concentrates in carlots for their exclusive use. We and your State authorities ask your cooperation with the county agent, we ask you to make it as easy as possible for him to keep the machinery going by not taking to him small individual requests for approval certificates. Work with him to organize group buying so that we may proceed in an orderly fashion.



That is the cornerstone of the structure to meet the drought emergency -- orderly procedure. We have been talking of orderly selling for years. We need to follow that principle rigidly and avoid dumping of livestock on the market in this present situation. All reports so far indicate that we are avoiding dumping of livestock. But we need also to practice orderly buying of feed supplies, for a sudden rush can put prices up to an unwarranted point. There is no more need for panic-buying of feeds than there is for panic-selling of livestock.

Besides using in the most efficient manner the privilege of shipping feed and livestock for drought relief purposes at reduced freights, individual farmers, I realize, must use every ounce of their energy and business ability and knowledge of farm management to bring their businesses unscathed through the coming months. Each of you in the drought regions has been for weeks considering how to stretch feed supplies to the limit. You are at work figuring out rations made up from locally available or imported feeds which will carry your stock at least expense. I shall not try to give any advice to you on these points. Perhaps your county agent can be of some assistance by providing you formulas that have been tested out in former years or that have been newly revised by the animal husbandmen at your agricultural college. He will give his services cheerfully in every possible way, I know.

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*Handwritten*